

IREX

International Research & Exchanges Board
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FOR RELEASE

February 9, 1982--A report released today in New York City by IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board) calls attention to the growing inadequacy of United States research on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in contrast to the massive and expanding Soviet efforts in foreign area research. According to the report, this declining capacity to undertake essential studies of the Soviet bloc will hamper U.S. foreign policy and national security in the very near future.

Three prominent American specialists on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe compiled the report, Foreign Area Research in the National Interest: American & Soviet Perspectives, which is introduced by Brigadier General William E. Odom, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (Army). General Odom states, "The comparison is stark---even alarming for those who believe that East-West relations remain the critical axis of U.S. foreign and security policy."

Walter Connor, director of Soviet and East European studies at the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State (Arlington, Virginia), reports on the recent findings of an inquiry into U.S. national needs in foreign area research which estimates there are

currently only eleven hundred personnel in academia, government, and the private sector working on the USSR and Eastern Europe, against a conservatively estimated need for almost seventeen hundred such persons. The manpower gap, evident in all fields, is particularly great in such areas as economics, politics in Eastern Europe, sociology, and nationalities studies.

Robert Legvold, director of the Soviet Project of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, reports that the U.S. now suffers from a serious depletion of expertise on Soviet foreign policy, and that the number of advanced researchers working on the subject is falling. The U.S. has no one in its universities or research organizations currently publishing in such important areas as Soviet policy toward NATO, toward the evolution of international economic relations, or toward Southern Africa.

Daniel C. Matuszewski, associate director of IREX with responsibility for Soviet programs, calls attention to the sizable numbers of Soviet researchers, by contrast, who are systematically studying the U.S. and other foreign areas. Since 1956 the Soviet Union has made a major investment in foreign area studies, building upon the base of the institutes of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Employing over 7,400 specialists in twelve key Moscow institutes alone, the Academy has undertaken comprehensive research on factors influencing global development in the search for foreign relations "predictability."

Foreign Area Research in the National Interest is issued in the series IREX Occasional Papers, brief reports on noteworthy confer-

ences, research, and other activities supported by IREX. IREX is the leading American channel for communication with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the social sciences and humanities. It was founded in 1968 by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council at the initiative of U.S. universities, the Ford Foundation, and the Department of State, as an independent, non-profit organization to administer America's advanced research exchanges with socialist countries. The study is available from IREX, 655 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 at a price of \$5.